

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) In a mounting system for securing a metal support surface to a metal bracket on a railroad car, the improvement comprising:

a compressible, energy absorbing arrangement having a non-metallic bushing secured intermediate the support surface and the bracket for preventing metal to metal contact between the support surface and the bracket and absorbing vibrational energy caused by movement of the railroad car,

wherein the bushing has an upstanding neck protruding through a hole formed in the support surface and a bottom surface having an enlarged central opening provided therein, the enlarged central opening being in communication with a throughbore passing through the neck of the bushing, wherein the enlarged central opening receives an expanded head of an insert having an internally threaded bore and threaded shaft depending from the head and secured to the metal bracket,

wherein the arrangement ~~including~~ includes a fastening device passing through the bushing and isolated from the support surface, the fastening device being received within the internally threaded bore of the insert.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The improvement of claim-~~3~~ 1, wherein the expanded head of the insert is fixedly received in the enlarged central opening in the bottom surface of the bushing.

5. (Currently Amended) The improvement of claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein the threaded shaft of the insert extends through an opening formed in the bracket and is engaged with a nut acting against an underside of the bracket.

6. (Currently Amended) The improvement of claim ~~3~~ 1, ~~including further comprising~~ a cap washer disposed upon the neck of the bushing, the cap washer having an aperture aligned with the throughbore in the neck of the bushing.

7. (Currently Amended) The improvement of claim 6, ~~including wherein~~ the fastening device is a bolt having a head and a threaded shaft depending from the head and extending through the aligned aperture in the cap washer and the throughbore in the neck of the bushing.

8. (Original) The improvement of claim 7, wherein the cap washer lies between the head of the bolt and the support surface.

9. (Original) The improvement of claim 8, wherein a lower surface of the cap washer is held spaced from the support surface.

10. (Currently Amended) The improvement of claim 7, wherein the threaded shaft of the bolt is received in the internally threaded bore of the insert such that tightening of the bolt will compress the bushing ~~beneath~~ between the cap washer and the bracket so as to isolate the support surface from torque, twist and vibration.

11. (Original) The improvement of claim 1, wherein the support surface is a running board.

12. (Original) The improvement of claim 2, wherein the bushing is constructed of a plastic material.

13. (Currently Amended) A mounting system for securing a support surface to a bracket on a railroad car, the mounting system comprising:

a bushing disposed between the support surface and the bracket, the bushing having an upper portion protruding through a hole in the support surface, and a lower portion carrying-receiving an insert ~~retained in~~ having an expanded head received in the bushing and a threaded shaft depending from the expanded head and extending through the bracket; and

a bolt having a head positioned above the upper portion of the bushing, and a threaded shaft passing through the upper portion of the bushing and being threadably received in an internally threaded bore of the insert such that tightening of the bolt will compress the bushing.

14. (Original) The mounting system of claim 13, wherein the bushing is constructed of an energy absorbing, compressible material.

15. (Original) The mounting system of claim 13, including a cap washer disposed upon the neck of the bushing beneath the head of the bolt in spaced relationship from the support surface.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) The mounting system of claim ~~16~~ 13, wherein the expanded head is fixedly received in an enlarged central opening formed in the lower portion of the bushing.

18. (Currently Amended) The mounting system of claim ~~16~~ 13, wherein the threaded shaft of the insert extends through an opening formed in the bracket and is engaged with a nut acting against an underside of the bracket.

Appln. No. 10/775,412
Amdt dated January 6, 2006
Reply to Office Action of August 8, 2005

19. (Original) The mounting system of claim 13, wherein the bracket has an inverted, U-shape provided with a raised surface and a pair of downwardly depending legs fastened to the railroad car.

20. (Original) The mounting system of claim 19, wherein a bottom surface of the bushing is supported upon the raised surface of the bracket.